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May
2013



The
Family
Promise

SCOOP

Family Strides: The success of Katrina

Family Promise taught me how to manage my life and support my child. We have learned to be a family again.

Katrina, a single mom of one son, came to Texas from California, escaping an abusive relationship. Katrina had no employment, no money, no car and virtually no resources. Katrina and Tyler were welcomed into the Family Promise program in December of 2011. This mother was scared, she didn't know what to expect, or what her future held, but she committed her family to the 90-day program and it didn't take long for Katrina to find employment.

Entering the program; Katrina had already graduated high school and had worked as management in the fast food industry back in California. Katrina went right to work on job searching and was hired on the spot by two employers on her first day of looking. She eventually settled for shift manager at the local Dairy Queen, but in time left the job for a guaranteed full-time position at a local car dealership.

Family Promise of Montgomery County assisted her with daycare expenses, and when a vehicle was donated to the program, we were able to "gift" this reliable mode of transportation to her.

Nearing the end of this family's stay in the FP program; Katrina was able to find an apartment in Willis that was affordable for her and her son. She received donated furniture from the Family Promise storage to fill her new home. Katrina found employment, safe and affordable housing, and day care for her child and was a successful graduate of the Family Promise of Montgomery County program. She has continued to maintain a relationship with the program and has said she appreciates all that she was able to accomplish for her family and the many opportunities she was given.



12th ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT | Save the Date | October 7, 2013

It's that time again for the annual golf tournament! We are excited to begin registering players and finding sponsors. If you would like to sponsor please contact Martha Mayes Burnes for more information. Be looking for information in the mail!

WHY DONATE?

There are so many reasons to support Family Promise. When you make a donation, you are directly helping homeless and low-income families regain the dignity and independence they deserve.

- **\$25** pays for a drivers license, a birth certificate, or child's tennis shoes
- **\$50** pays for work boots, groceries until food stamps are provided, cell phone card,
- **\$100** pays for prescription medication, child care for a week, or GED testing
- **\$500** pays for transitional assistance to families for apartment deposits and utilities

The return on your investment is the immeasurable value of keeping families together, maintaining children in their schools, and providing communities a way to solve their own problems locally.

To donate by mail, simply include and return your donation in the envelope enclosed.

Family Promise Needs You: How can you help?

Family Promise of Montgomery County receives donations from many people, but they always are in need of you! There are a number of ways that you can contribute to Family Promise while helping yourself at the same time!

Every day, Family Promise connects people who want to help with opportunities to make a difference. Our volunteers give of their time and talent in so many ways to help homeless and low-income families regain the dignity and independence they deserve. The "life blood" of this program are our volunteers, without whom we would not be in existence. If your church is a host or support congregation, sign up to be a vital part of the next rotation schedule.

You can bring food, provide hospitality in the evening for a few hours or spend the night with our guests. If you attend a church not part of our network yet, join as a "free agent" volunteer, until you can get your congregation to become a host or support church.

Volunteers who directly serve our families help us maintain our cost-efficient program expenses through the gift of their time, donations, and talents.

Administrative volunteers assist the staff as well as the Board of Directors on various daily activities to keep Family Promise functioning.

What is your talent? We've all come together in faith to achieve what we believe is a godly outreach (or the right thing to do) in this community. Each one of us has been given a talent or special interest. Shouldn't we look to use that gift(s) at Family Promise?



Tell your family and friends about Family Promise of Montgomery County. You will be telling either those who can help or telling those who can be helped.

Host Congregations

Christ UMC– The Woodlands
 Conroe Church of Christ
 First Presbyterian Church
 Grace Lutheran-Conroe
 St. James Episcopal-Conroe
 Tree of Life Lutheran– Conroe
 West Conroe Baptist Church
 Conroe Bible
 First Baptist Church-Conroe
 FUMC of Conroe
 Montgomery UMC
 The Woodlands UMC
 Trinity Episcopal-The Woodlands

OUR WISHLIST...

VEHICLES | Donated vehicles are inspected and fixed as needed by a group of volunteers with expertise in this area.



ITEMS | Family Promise has a continuing need for certain goods and services, including:

- Paper products
- Cleaning supplies
- Towels
- Laundry supplies
- Office / school supplies



Give securely online at www.familypromiseofmc.org/donations

Contact us:
936|441|8778

Visit our website:
www.familypromiseofmc.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

| GOSPEL EXTRAVAGANZA |

Gospel Extravaganza at First United Methodist Church of Conroe on Sunday, August 18, 2013 at 8pm. The concert is free, with a special offering collected, all proceeds of which benefit Family Promise of Montgomery County. Several area churches are participating and special guest artists will also perform.

| GOLF TOURNAMENT |

Mark your calendars for October 7th, 2013 for the 12th Annual Golf Tournament! If you want to sponsor this tournament, please give Martha Mayes Burnes a call! The tournament is at the April Sound Country Club. There are many new activities scheduled! See you there!



CARDBOARD CITY: CHRIST CHURCH UNITED METHODIST

SPEAK FOR JUSTICE, STAND UP FOR THE POOR AND DESOLATE! ~Proverbs 31:9

Can you imagine having to live in a cardboard box each night, as so many homeless families do in these United States? We, at Family Promise want to make a statement about how the families we serve endure hardships on their way back from the brink of homelessness.

To do this, participants will create a Cardboard City of box shelters, an event designed to uniquely bring awareness of homeless needs to our community and to assist Family Promise in our mission to help homeless families with children in our Montgomery County community.

Participants will use a cardboard box as their "home" for the evening. To become more aware of homelessness, they will stay one night and wake up the following morning with an appreciation for the support and shelter provided through Family Promise. Participants will receive a soup line supper, a commemorative Tee-Shirt, and a place to set up their box "home". In the morning, participants will have breakfast together. Youth groups, businesses and volunteers from around the city will participate in this event!

If you would like to learn more or invite your youth group or business to sponsor a cardboard city benefiting Family Promise, email martha-

mayeres@familypromiseofmc.org

Julia Hoffman, a junior who attends Christ Church United Methodist, participated in this year's Cardboard City. Over the past few years her youth leader has partnered with Family Promise of Montgomery County to educate the youth group in the life of the homeless. Julia's experience in Missouri, spending a week living and serving at The Salvation Army over spring break to understand the problem of homelessness, led to her participating in the cardboard city. The impact this experience made on Julia is exactly the intended outcome of the event.



Julia states it best when she said, "Participating in Cardboard City really reminded me how grateful I am for all the things I have. It was nice to be brought back to reality and reminded that there is a lot we can do to help those in our area in need, even if it is as simple as raising awareness."

If this is the impact that one cardboard city can have, wouldn't it be amazing to spread this experience to others in the community?



Directors Message

Leon Virtue,
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Andrew Burnett,
Vice-President

Arlene Hovendick,
Treasurer

Joan Blair,
Secretary

Dr. Ken Davis
Susan Young
Thomas A. Jones
Burton Wells
Bill Sisco
Tammy Berg
Cherry Perciful
Marsha Williams

At Family Promise of Montgomery County, we believe that strong families build strong communities.

When most people picture someone “homeless” they don’t picture a single Mom with three children trying to make it on her own after her husband left. Most of the families who enter the Family Promise program are people who have had a significant loss of income; they lost their job or their spouse, or they may have had unexpected medical expenses, or a car accident that caused them to lose their only form of transportation.

Family Promise of Montgomery County gives these families an opportunity to create a stable environment for their family. Our goal is for families to graduate the program with safe & affordable housing, transportation, and school or day care for their children. Family Promise staff, both paid and volunteer, work with each family on a plan leading them to independence and self-sufficiency.

Through thousands of volunteer hours, families are sheltered, fed, clothed, and cared for in a safe, faith-based environment. Family Promise of Montgomery County gives families a chance at success. Family Promise of Montgomery County is changing lives – one family at a time. Won’t you join us?

~Martha

Mission: To serve homeless families with children by uniting faith communities in a cooperative effort to provide shelter, meals, transportation, and compassionate assistance leading to independence.



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